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Commissioner Jane E. Henney
Parklawn Building, Rm. 14-71
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Henney,

Up until recently I have never been one to take a stand on any issue. Many things happen in this country and in this world that I do not approve of, for example - the depleting rainforests, our poisoned waters, our insane military defense budget, the air strikes, that euphemism for war, and public schools who can barely afford to give a proper education anymore, but like many people, I would carry on with my daily life in the American bubble, not affected directly by these occurrences, and therefore uninvolved. Politics have never interested in.


At work today I borrowed a magazine from my friend not knowing really what it was. I'm sure you have heard of it, yourself, the "Nutrition Action Health Letter" put out by the Center for Science in Public Interest. They made it look easy to get "involved," and so here I am, at the computer.

Frankly, Ms. Henney, when it concerns our food industry, I am scared. Actually, I am scared, and angry, often paranoid, and also dumbfounded that our food supply is in the hands of some very, very rich companies who aren't concerned about our health and welfare, but know how to adequately pay off the right people in order to increase their profits. It's a given that everywhere there is corruption - at the capitol, at police departments, you name it...but why mess with our food? But more importantly, if our food supply is going to be tampered with, I would like to know about it so that I can make a choice. Isn't that the key, the liberty to choose? To have an abortion or not to have an abortion. To take valium or valerian. To fluoridate or not to fluoridate our water. To be Mormon or Christian or atheist.

Personally, I believe we are what we eat and so I care about what I eat. I need to be able to choose the kind of food I am buying. I want to buy wholesome food, like food that my grandmother and her grandmother were raised on, food that has not been sprayed with chemicals or treated with irradiation, that hasn't been spliced with fish or bacteria or some other gene that would never become a part of that food naturally. And if I am generally healthy and don't need prescription medicine, or if I can easily recover from illness with some old-fashion herbs and plenty of fluids and rest, I don't want to be taking anti-biotics or other hormones second-hand through eating animals or animal products that have received such treatments.

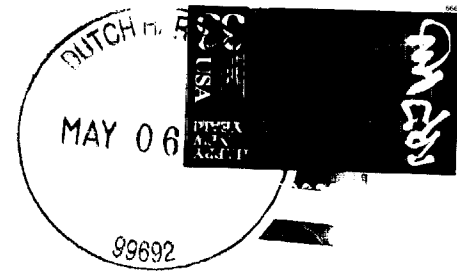
So, as the coupon in the CSPI newsletter reads, "Please help ban the use of medically useful antibiotics in animal feed. Adding antibiotics to feed in order to promote growth can make bacteria resistant to those antibiotics. And that can leave physicians with no way to treat life-threatening bacterial infections in humans. That's why I support the petition filed by CSPI." I also request that irradiated foods carry a prominent disclosure, in easy-to-read type, on the front of the package. As for genetically engineered foods, I have already signed Mothers for Natural Law's petition, asking that G.E. foods be labeled. And I also request that dairy products be clearly labeled if they are made with milk from cows that have been treated by that growth hormone that causes cows to produce more milk. I do not want these types of foods in my body, and would like the right to choose whether or not I ingest them. If you are not the one to dump all these requests onto, I apologize. Doesn't it make sense, though? A person doesn't have to be a health fanatic or a tree hugger to see that we're heading in the wrong direction, and it's all quite sickening to the stomach. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,


Sherri L. Woo

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